

Volunteers made various excursions into New Jersey for forage for the British army. This became so annoying that Colonel Matthias Ogden, of the First Battalion, New Jersey Continental Line, then commanding the post at Elizabeth Town, with Colonel Elias Dayton, of the Third Battalion, who was stationed at Newark, and a party of one hundred militia of Essex county, determined to inflict some severe punishment on Skinner's tories. On the 22d of August they were re-enforced by a thousand men of the brigade of Brigadier-General William Smallwood, of Maryland, and of Brigadier-General Chevalier Prendhomme DeBorro, and just before midnight they crossed over from Halstead's Point, near the mouth of Morse's creek, to Staten Island. The New Jersey Volunteers were then stationed from Decker's Ferry to Billops's, now Ward's Point. The attack by the Jersey Continentals, before daylight the next morning, resulted in taking prisoner Lieutenant-Colonel Elisha Lawrence, of the First Battalion, and Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Barton, of the Fifth Battalion of the Volunteers, with one hundred and thirty enlisted men of their commands, and in severely wounding Major John Barnes, of the First Battalion, and Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Vaughan Dongan, of the Third Battalion, from which wounds they both died. General Sullivan, however, with the other body of Continentals, endeavored at the same time to surprise the Volunteers, but was deceived by a tory guide, and having come upon the loyal troops awaiting him, was quite severely punished by them. Indeed, General Skinner claimed the affair, notwithstanding his loss, as a great victory.

On the 27th of November, 1777, General Philemon Dickinson, commanding officer of the New Jersey Militia, suddenly embarked before daylight from Halstead's Point to